



MIAMI BEACH

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LETTER TO COMMISSION
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

TO: Mayor Phillip Levine and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: February 11, 2015

SUBJECT: January 2014 Homeless Census Results

The purpose of this Letter To Commission is to transmit the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust's final results for the January 22, 2015 Point-in-Time Homeless Census.

According to the latest census results, the City's homeless population has grown 23 percent to 193, up from 157 in August 2014. Please note the homeless census count over time:

	Winter	Summer	Variance (Winter to Summer)	Year to Year Variance	
				Winter	Summer
2010	149	196	+47	N/A	N/A
2011	177	218	+41	+28	+22
2012	173	186	+13	-4	-32
2013	138	106	-32	-35	-80
2014	122	157	+35	-16	+51

Attached you will find the census count broken down by zip code for your cross-reference.

While the census measures homeless encountered on the streets on one day and at one point-in-time (10pm to 6am), it is not a true reflection of homelessness in our community. The City tracks its homeless in various ways including:

- Street outreach (those encountered by staff as they canvass the streets)
- Walk-in Center (those proactively seeking services including shelter, relocation and food)
- Police Referrals (those contacted by Police during regular patrol)

From October 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014, our City placed 126 people in shelter (when only 157 were counted in the August 2014 census). More interestingly, the City served 296 unduplicated persons in January, far more than the number reported in the January 22nd census. Of these 296 people, 51 were placed in shelter and eight were provided with relocation services.

In addition, the City has undertaken a new level of interdepartmental cooperation with the Miami Beach Police Department that has expanded dialogue and joint efforts to address homelessness. In addition to expanded joint outreach missions at midnight and 3am, this collaboration now includes the issuance of *Police Homeless Service Referrals* that afford police the discretion to refer homeless persons to shelter as an alternative to arrest for minor crimes. In turn, these referrals and the person's subsequent visit to our

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office is updated in the City's newly-created *Client Information Management System* (CIMS), an online application created to enable staff to track homeless clients including their police contacts, service history, and refusals of service. This data empowers police to more effectively utilize their discretion with those who chronically violate the law. The police referrals commenced in November 2014 with 79 referrals issued. In December, referrals climbed to 113. January referrals were 75. These referrals represent unduplicated numbers within the monthly reporting period. Twenty arrests were made in January between joint missions and those people who were arrested at the walk-in center with open warrants.

Further, the City undertook a new partnership with Miami Beach Community Church. The Church provides free lunch to the homeless and others Tuesday through Friday. Our new initiative, which started January 10th, requires that homeless persons seeking a meal at the Church must first visit the outreach walk-in center at 555 – 17th Street to obtain a food voucher. This enables staff to offer shelter as well as other services. In January, the City issued 87 meal vouchers. Of these, only 19 people actually went to the church to obtain a meal. Within this count, nine of those who obtained meal vouchers were subsequently housed in shelter by the City.

City staff continues to proactively engage different stakeholders, such as Miami Beach Community Church, to address the factors that sustain homelessness in our community. In the past several weeks, the City has worked with the Committee on the Homeless and its Communications Office to discourage panhandling (as noted in the attached *MB Magazine* article published in the winter edition) and the community-wide dissemination of the *Are You Ready?* cards providing information to the homeless about the walk-in center.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to see me.

JLM/KGB/MLR

Enclosure: January 2015 Homeless Census Breakdown
 Lend a Hand Not a Hand Out article
 Are You Ready? cards

Miami Dade South Homeless Census Geographic Summary Results
January, 2015

AREAS	North Beach	Middle Beach	South Beach	TOTALS
Gender Breakdown				
Males	13	23	119	155
Females	2	1	26	29
Transgender/Male to Female	0	0	0	0
Transgender/Female to Male	0	0	0	0
Unable to Identify	2	1	6	9
Total	17	25	151	193
Ethnic Breakdown				
African American	6	8	45	59
Anglo	5	6	65	76
Hispanic	1	10	27	38
Other	1	0	0	1
Unable to Identify	4	1	14	19
Total	17	25	151	193
Racial Breakdown				
Black	5	10	47	62
White	10	14	96	120
Unable to Identify	2	1	8	11
Total	17	25	151	193
Age Estimates				
0-17	0	0	0	0
18-24	0	1	6	7
25-34	5	8	19	32
35-44	7	6	31	44
45-54	0	4	28	32
55-61	3	3	35	41
62+	0	2	12	14
Unable to Identify	2	1	20	23
Total	17	25	151	193
Family Status				
Singles	15	24	145	184
Total # of persons in Families	0	0	0	0
Total # of persons in Couples	2	1	6	9
%	9%	13%	78%	100%
TOTALS	17	25	151	193



Lend a Hand Not a Hand Out

Most people believe that they can help a homeless person by handing some change or a dollar. In Miami Beach, where help is available and offered to the homeless, handouts do not help. For too many, handouts subsidize and encourage life on the streets.

Many homeless people suffer from mental illness and addiction. Their suffering is compounded by remaining on the streets. But they can help themselves by leaving the streets and accepting the services and shelters that the City of Miami Beach offers. This ensures that medical professionals and additional support services are aligned to heal the person and prepare them to return to independence. Spare change – offered with the best intentions – discourages the acceptance of help and encourages homelessness.

To make this happen, Miami Beach's Committee on the Homeless will distribute cards to businesses, residents and visitors with a straight message. Instead of handing a homeless person your spare change, hand them a homeless help card. The card

provides information on Miami Beach's Homeless Outreach Team, which can provide shelter, medical and addiction treatment services; replace lost identification documents, provide employment training and referrals and; ultimately, help the person leave the streets for good.

Homelessness is the absence of a fixed, sheltered place to live. In Miami Beach, the latest Homeless Point in Time Survey conducted August 28 and 29, 2014 identified 157 homeless people sleeping on the streets. From October 2013 to September 2014, the city placed 572 in shelters. Some were even reunited with long-lost family members.

While Miami Beach is one of only two municipalities in Miami-Dade County with homeless outreach teams and the only city with a walk-in center for the homeless, no one can force the homeless to accept help. Every day that a homeless person lives on the streets, he or she grows more convinced that the streets are his or her home.

The City purchases shelter beds at four shelters: The Salvation Army, Miami Rescue Mission, Lotus House and Camillus House. Each shelter provides meals and case management services. Each provides a unique environment and additional support such as mental health services and addiction treatment. For these shelters to succeed, people must be ready to accept the help and commit to their personal success.

While Miami Beach has its Homeless Outreach Team and a volunteer outreach team comprising members of the clergy, the city cannot do the work alone. Residents, businesses and visitors can be part of the solution as easily as they can be part of the problem. By discouraging panhandling and encouraging the homeless to accept services, the community can bring an end to homelessness.

Are you ready to help end homelessness in Miami Beach?

Ofrezca una mano amiga, no una limosna Muchas personas creen que pueden ayudar a un indigente con unas pocas monedas sueltas o un dólar. En Miami Beach, donde existe y se da ayuda a los indigentes, las limosnas no sirven. Para muchos, las limosnas subsidian y fomentan la vida en las calles.

Muchos indigentes sufren de enfermedades mentales y adicciones. Su sufrimiento se exagera al vivir en las calles. Pero pueden hacerse ellos mismos un favor si salen de las calles y aceptan los servicios y refugios que ofrece la Ciudad de Miami Beach. Así se garantiza que los profesionales médicos y servicios de apoyo adicional estén armonizados para curar a la persona y prepararla para regresar a la independencia. Las monedas sueltas, que se ofrecen con las mejores intenciones, desalientan la aceptación de ayuda y estimulan la indigencia.

Para hacer que esto suceda, el Comité para la Indigencia de Miami Beach distribuirá tarjetas entre las empresas, residentes y visitantes con un mensaje claro. En vez de darle unas cuantas monedas a una persona indigente, entréguele una tarjeta de ayuda para indigentes. La tarjeta trae información sobre el Equipo de Asistencia a la Indigencia de Miami Beach, el cual brinda refugio, servicios de atención

médica y de adicciones, reemplazo de documentos de identificación extraviados, capacitación laboral y referidos y, a la postre, ayuda para que las personas dejen las calles para siempre.

La indigencia es la falta de un lugar fijo y seguro para vivir. En Miami Beach, según el estudio más reciente sobre indigencia (Homeless Point in Time Survey) realizado entre el 28 y el 29 de agosto de 2014, se identificaron 157 personas indigentes que duermen en las calles. Entre octubre de 2013 y septiembre de 2014, la ciudad colocó a 572 indigentes en refugios. Algunos de ellos hasta se reencontraron con su familia.

Si bien Miami Beach es uno de los dos municipios del Condado de Miami-Dade con equipos de asistencia a la indigencia y la única ciudad con un centro de atención inmediata para indigentes, nadie puede obligar a los indigentes a aceptar la ayuda. Cada día que un indigente vive en la calle, se convence más de que las calles son su verdadero hogar.

La Ciudad paga por camas en cuatro refugios: The Salvation Army, Miami Rescue Mission, Lotus House y Camillus House. Cada refugio ofrece comidas y servicios de administración de casos. Cada uno proporciona un entorno único y apoyo adicional, tales como servicios de salud mental y tratamiento de adicciones. Para que estos refugios tengan éxito, las personas deben estar listas para aceptar la ayuda y comprometerse con su éxito personal.

Si bien Miami Beach tiene su Equipo de Asistencia a la Indigencia y un equipo de voluntarios de asistencia integrado por miembros del clero, la ciudad no puede hacer todo el trabajo. Los residentes, empresas y visitantes pueden formar parte de la solución tan fácilmente como pueden ser parte del problema. Al desalentar las limosnas y fomentar que los indigentes acepten servicios de ayuda, la comunidad puede ponerle fin a la indigencia.

¿Está usted listo para ayudar a acabar con la indigencia en Miami Beach?



Then **accept** shelter and our support services to get clean, stable and on with the rest of your life.

Homeless Outreach Office
Mon - Fri, 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
555-17 Street | 305.604.4663

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For more on how the City is reducing homelessness, watch out MBTV original program, "Homelessness on Miami Beach: Another Day in Paradise?"



http://web.miamibe

achfl.gov/commservices/s

coll.aspx?id=17256

Instead of handing a homeless person your spare change, hand them this homeless help card. Follow this link to print more cards.



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